I believe that the Retrenchment Committee called for suggestions regarding retrenchment from heads of departments and perhaps in this connexion certain proposals might have been made by him. However, I have no information direct."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know if there are proposals under consideration by the Government to extend the activities of the King Institute, Guindy?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir."

II.—NEW LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I may inform the House that the hon. Mr. Uppi Sahib has agreed to Dr. John taking his place. I therefore request Dr. John to take the place of the Leader of the Opposition."

(Dr. V. K. John took the place of the Leader of the Opposition amidst cheers.)

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Mr. President, Sir, before I make my statement, I should like to apologize to you, and to this House for not being present here on the 3rd and yesterday, the 4th, owing to some unavoidable happenings. This morning when I opened the papers in the train, I found that my absence in the House became a matter for discussion. Sir, I am very much obliged to you and to the House for the great consideration which you have shown to me and to my party yesterday. It was said that a letter was sent to me, but unfortunately for me, owing to my absence from my home for the last three days, I could not see that letter and I am extremely sorry that an impression was given that I did not reply to your letter, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" There was no such impression; on the other hand, the impression was that the hon. Member was away at Delhi."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I thank you, Sir, that in spite of my apparent neglect, you have been good enough to treat me with such consideration. However, I apologize to you, Mr. President, for that omission.

" Now, Sir, we, the Muslim League Party was the main opposition in this House till now. It was not of our own seeking. It was a mere accident that we were made the opposition party. The Government themselves will admit that we were not an opposition party, merely for opposition. We were co-operating with the Government whenever we thought that co-operation was necessary and criticising them, whenever we thought that criticism was necessary, but our criticisms were always constructive and not destructive. I assure the Government, that as a party, we will be co-operating with the Government as well as criticising them, whenever we feel that such criticisms are necessary.

" As regards the newly formed party, I wish to say only one word. Let it be a true party. I do not want to say more. How that party is formed is a matter of public knowledge. I congratulate

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my hon. Friend Mr. John for being the Opposition Leader. He is a capable leader and I hope that he will prove to be a capable Opposition Leader also, and I wish his party all success."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Mr. President, Sir, I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Uppi Sahib, the Leader of the official Opposition till to-day, for the statement he has just made in this House. I express the hope, on behalf of the United Democrats, that Mr. Uppi Sahib himself with his friends will join this party. because our primary object is the welfare of the common man, and the other objects which we have published can easily be subscribed to by Mr. Uppi Sahib and his friends. And it is also my hope that before long he will take this seat again, because as my friends know, my professional work does not enable me to come here and sit throughout the day, and as Leader of the Opposition, when I ask the Hon. Ministers to be present, I am myself bound to be present throughout the day. It is thus very difficult for me to discharge the functions of the Leader of the Opposition, but however, I have agreed to this for the time being because I was anxious that we must form a party which is non-communal and my friends wanted me to be the leader of it. I once again express the hope that Mr. Uppi Sahib and the other members of the Muslim League Party in this House will join the United Democrats, which is a non-communal opposition and that he himself will occupy this seat before long."

* DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Mr. President, Sir, we have had an opposition till now led by Mr. Uppi Sahib. On behalf of the Treasury Benches I must express my thanks and my gratitude for the Opposition Bench that has been under his leadership all these months. We have worked as it were as a happy family with the Opposition here all this one year and more. We divided of course on issues and surely the Opposition voted against us but that is only a duty which the Opposition has got to do. I believe, Sir, that this Government has got to be run not only by us but also along with the co-operation of the Opposition itself and both of us were working together conducive to the well-being of this Legislature and also we had the satisfaction that our discussions had the full weight of the opposition thrown in it so that the judgment we arrived at was always a very considered one and subjected to all possible criticisms. In that view, I must say that Mr. Uppi Sahib has discharged his duties very well and he is entitled to the thanks of the Treasury Benches. 11–15 p.m.

" I am also glad, Sir, that my hon. Friend, Dr. V. K. John, has taken his place. He is a lawyer of reputation and although he regrets the failure of his briefs on account of the tasks he has undertaken, I am sure that it will be a test of his patriotism in the discharge of his duties. After all most of us cannot, and especially public workers cannot be always thinking of briefs and incomes when we discharge public duties. I am glad that Dr. John has after all taken upon himself the duty of sacrificing a little of his income for the sake of public service which he could discharge in this Council. I also congratulate him on this score. I do hope

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that he will also help us in the Council with good criticisms, as he has often done even though he was not actually in the Opposition. I hope that as Leader of the Opposition he would contribute the same amount of vigorous criticisms on Government's policies and throw in his weight of experience and legal acumen in the discharge of his duties. I congratulate him, Sir, on his becoming the Leader of the Opposition here."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I feel I have to join and say a few words on this rather important occasion in the House. Though the Opposition till now was communal in character I am very glad to say that its nature as a communal party never entered into the discussions and our decisions and discussions were never marred by its communal nature. Mr. Uppi Sahib and his party have always been very diligent in their duties to this House and it is common knowledge that whenever it was necessary they gave their wholehearted support to the Government and whenever they found it again necessary they never flinched from saying what they felt on measures that were brought before the House.

" I must also offer my thankfulness to the Leader who has also been very considerate and shall I say obedient also to the dictates as well as to the requests from the Chair. I cannot recall even one instance when the Chair and the Opposition whether the official Opposition or the rest of the Opposition came to grips on any matter, excepting one such incident which I remember. But that did not arise out of the communal nature of the party. I am glad to say that even on that occasion, Mr. Uppi Sahib and his friends who walked out, came back at my request and took their seats and the only incident which I could think of and which would have marred the proceedings of the House was thus closed. I have very great pleasure in adding my voice to the compliments that have been given to the previous Leader of the Opposition.

" I also welcome Dr. John and his Party as the Official Opposition. I hope the House will agree with me when I say that it is a real opposition and that it is not guided by any communal principles. It is a real political party in every sense of the term. It is not without some feelings of trepidation on my part that I welcome Dr. John into his seat. I have been seeing since yesterday that Dr. John is more active in this than in his old seat."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" That is very dangerous."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Though not more dangerous, I think it is rather disturbing to the deliberations of the House. I hope Dr. John will take this remark of mine in the spirit in which it is offered and that he will help in the discussions and see that the discussions are not disturbed. I am very glad to welcome Dr. John to his seat and also his party members as the Official Opposition. I hope we will get on as amicably and as harmoniously as we did in the past."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" We offer our sincere co-operation to you, Sir, in all matters."